

Vendor, Contractor or Subcontractor Confidentiality Agreement

The Revenue Act, Section 28(1)f, 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.28(1)(f), makes all information acquired in administering taxes confidential. The Act holds a vendor, contractor or subcontractor and their employees who sell a product or provide a service to the Michigan Department of Treasury, or who access Treasury data, to the strict confidentiality provisions of the Act. Confidential tax information includes, but is not limited to, information obtained in connection with the administration of a tax or information or parameters that would enable a person to ascertain the audit selection or processing criteria of the Michigan Department of Treasury for a tax administered by the department.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read this entire form before you sign it. If you do not complete this agreement, you will be denied access to Michigan Department of Treasury and federal tax information. After you sign and date this form, keep a copy for your records. Send the original to: Michigan Department of Treasury, Office of Policy Communications and Disclosure, Disclosure Officer, 430 W. Allegan, Lansing, MI 48922.

Company Name and Address (Street or RR#, City, State, Zip Code)	Official or Employee Name
	Employee Identification Number or Driver's License Number
Name of State of Michigan Agency	Sub-Contractor's Name if Product/Service Furnished to Contractor
Describe here or in a separate attachment the product or service being provided to the State of Michigan Agency.	

Confidentiality Provisions. It is illegal to reveal or browse, except as authorized:

- All tax return information obtained in connection with the administration of a tax. This includes information from a tax return or audit and any information about the selection of a return for audit, assessment or collection, or parameters or tolerances for processing returns.
- All Michigan Department of Treasury or federal tax returns or tax return information made available, including information marked "Official Use Only". Tax returns or tax return information shall not be divulged or made known in any manner to any person except as may be needed to perform official duties. Access to Treasury or federal tax information, in paper or electronic form, is allowed on a **need-to-know** basis only. Disclosure of return information to other employees of your department, agency, division or office, must meet **need-to-know** criteria and be required for them to perform their official duties.
- Confidential information shall not be disclosed by a department employee to confirm information made public by another party or source which is part of any public record. 1999 AC 205.1003(3).

Penalty. Violating confidentiality laws is a felony, with penalties as described:

Agency Discipline

Absence of criminal prosecution does not prevent your agency from pursuing internal sanctions for unauthorized accessing, browsing, or disclosing state or federal tax returns or tax return information.

Michigan Penalties

MCL 205.28(1)(f) provides that you may not willfully browse any Michigan tax return or information contained in a return. Browsing is defined as examining a return or return information acquired without authorization and without a **need to know** the information to perform official duties. Violators of §28(1)(f) are guilty of a **felony** and subject to **fines of \$5,000 or imprisonment for five years, or both** per the Michigan Revenue Act, 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.28(2). State employees will be discharged from state service upon conviction.

Any person who violates any other provision of the Revenue Act, 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.1, et seq., or any statute administered under the Revenue Act, will be guilty of a misdemeanor and **fined \$1,000 or imprisonment for one year, or both**, MCL 205.27(4).

Federal Penalties

If you willfully disclose federal tax returns or tax return information to a third party, you are guilty of a **felony with a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment for five years, or both, plus prosecution costs** according to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) §7213, 26 USC 7213.

In addition, inspecting, browsing or looking at a federal tax return or tax return information without authorization is a **felony violation** of IRC §7213A, 26 USC 7213A, subjecting the violator to a **\$1,000 fine or imprisonment for one year, or both, plus prosecution costs**. Taxpayers affected by violations of §7213A must be notified by the government and may bring a civil action against the federal government and the violator within two years of the violation. Civil damages are the **greater of \$1,000 or actual damages** incurred by the taxpayer, plus the costs associated with bringing the action, 26 USC 7431.

CERTIFICATION		
I acknowledge that I have read this Agreement, which is intended to help me understand applicable Michigan and Federal law related to the protection of confidential information. I understand that failure to comply with applicable law, including the laws referenced in this Agreement, may subject a violator to criminal and civil penalties.		
Print name of person signing this agreement	Signature of person named above	Date signed
WITNESS		
Print name of witness	Signature of witness	Date signed